United Nations A/57/599

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 2002
English
Original: French

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 100
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 11 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw to your attention the text of the declaration, known as the "Algiers Declaration", adopted by the African regional Ministerial Conference on the Promotion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime sponsored by the United Nations and held in Algiers on 29 and 30 October 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, together with the said declaration, circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Baali**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 11 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Algiers Declaration on the Promotion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols

We, Ministers and other representatives of African countries participating in the regional Ministerial Conference on the Promotion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, held in Algiers on 29 and 30 October 2002,

Concerned about the negative impact of transnational organized crime on the political, social and economic development, stability and security of our countries,

Noting that the global nature of transnational organized crime requires an effective global response,

Convinced of the urgent need to work together to combat organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, and to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance to that end,

Noting with deep concern the growing links between transnational organized crime and terrorism,

Stressing the importance of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in the provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, in combating transnational organized crime,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and 55/255 of 31 May 2001, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto, which constitute effective tools for international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime,

1. Express our deepest appreciation to His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and to the Government and people of Algeria for hosting the Regional Ministerial Conference in Algiers, organized by the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention;

2. Also express appreciation to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its generous voluntary contribution, which made the Conference possible;

3. Commend those countries of the African region which have signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols;

4. Express our satisfaction that some countries which have signed the Convention and its protocols are at an advanced stage in the process of ratification of those instruments;

5. Recommend that those countries that have not yet signed the protocols consider doing so as soon as possible;

6. Commend those countries of the region that have ratified the Convention and its protocols and call upon those countries that have not done so to undertake all necessary efforts and complete all requirements, in accordance with the domestic law, in order to ensure the ratification of those instruments;

7. Reaffirm the commitment to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation and to take further initiatives in this direction, with the assistance of and in coordination with the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

8. Recognize the importance of reviewing, improving and harmonizing national legislation against transnational organized crime, in order to bring it into line with the Convention and its protocols;

9. Urge donor countries and relevant international and regional organizations to enhance technical, financial and material assistance to support the efforts of countries of the region in ratifying and implementing the Convention and its protocols, through substantial regular voluntary contributions to the special account established under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, in accordance with article 30 of the Convention;

10. Call upon the Centre for International Crime Prevention, within the framework of the implementation of the Convention and its protocols, to support the efforts of the African States in the fight against transnational organized crime by holding regional and subregional high-level meetings, seminars and colloquiums to adapt national legislation to the Convention with a view to achieving the objectives of its implementation;

11. Also call upon the African States to integrate the fight against transnational organized rime in the implementation of the NEPAD Global Strategy;

12. Undertake to review progress in the signature, ratification and early implementation of these instruments regularly and provide relevant information to the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

13. Take note of the progress made in the negotiations on the new United Nations Convention against corruption and invite donor countries to continue to support the participation of the countries of the region in this process;

14. Invite the Chairperson of the Conference to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union and to that of the United Nations General Assembly at its present session.